

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 528**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin**

February 18, 2003

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An act to amend Section 125275 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to Alzheimer's disease.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 528, as introduced, Mullin. Alzheimer's disease: diagnostic and treatment center.

Existing law permits the State Department of Health Services to award grants to postsecondary higher education institutions with a medical center for the establishment of diagnostic and treatment centers for Alzheimer's disease.

Existing law provides that the functions of these centers shall be designed to serve specified purposes.

This bill would add to these purposes that of designing activities and programs adapted for the unique needs of Alzheimer's patients, including programs designed to decrease the effects of sundown syndrome, as prescribed.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 125275 of the Health and Safety Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 125275. (a) The Legislature finds that Alzheimer's disease,
- 4 a devastating disease which destroys certain vital cells of the brain,

1 affects more than 1,500,000 Americans. The Legislature also finds  
2 that Alzheimer's disease and related disorders are responsible for  
3 50 percent of all nursing home admissions and *that* Alzheimer's  
4 disease is the fourth leading cause of death in adults. The  
5 Legislature recognizes that the disease has serious emotional,  
6 financial, and social consequences for its victims and their  
7 families.

8 (b) The Legislature recognizes that the cause of Alzheimer's  
9 disease is presently unknown, and there is no established treatment  
10 which can cure, reverse, or stop the progression of Alzheimer's  
11 disease. The Legislature also recognizes that research is the only  
12 hope for victims and families. The Legislature finds that existing  
13 diagnostic and treatment centers have improved the quality of care  
14 available to the victims of Alzheimer's disease and increased  
15 knowledge with respect to Alzheimer's disease and related  
16 disorders. These centers provide clinical opportunities for  
17 research and facilitate the collection of essential data regarding  
18 Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, while at the same time  
19 providing valuable services ~~such as~~ *like* information and referral,  
20 counseling, and training to victims and their families. It is the  
21 intent of the Legislature, in enacting this article, to encourage the  
22 establishment of geographically dispersed diagnostic and  
23 treatment centers for Alzheimer's disease within every  
24 postsecondary higher educational institution with a medical  
25 center, and to encourage research to discover the cause of, and a  
26 cure for, Alzheimer's disease.

27 (c) The functions of the diagnostic and treatment centers shall  
28 be designed to serve all of the following purposes:

29 (1) To provide diagnostic and treatment services and improve  
30 the quality of care to victims of Alzheimer's disease.

31 (2) To increase research by faculty and students in discovering  
32 the cause of, and a cure for, Alzheimer's disease.

33 (3) To provide training, monitoring, consultation, and  
34 continuing education to the families of those who are affected by  
35 Alzheimer's disease.

36 (4) To increase the training of health care professionals with  
37 respect to Alzheimer's disease and other acquired brain  
38 impairments to the extent that the centers have the requisite  
39 expertise.

1     (5) *To design activities and programs that are adapted for the*  
2 *unique needs of Alzheimer’s patients, including programs*  
3 *designed to decrease the effects of “sundown syndrome” by*  
4 *creating more activities in the late afternoon and evening hours.*

5     (d) The diagnostic and treatment centers may collaborate with  
6 the Statewide Resources Consultant designated pursuant to  
7 Section 4364 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to the extent  
8 that the centers deem necessary in order to fulfill the functions set  
9 forth in subdivision (c).

